

1895-1896

Aug. 22

Waterbury, Conn. - 1895-1896

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To the Hon. H. A. W. Skeen, Judge of the Circuit Court
for Lee County, Virginia.

Humbly complaining, your oratrix, Alice Edwards, a resident of said County, *and an infant who sues by Isaac Bessie her father and next friend*, would respectfully represent and show unto your honor, that on the 14th day of May, 1906, she ran off to Tennessee and was there married to Harvey Edwards, she being at the time 16 years of age, and he 18 years of age; that they lived together as husband and wife about three months, during which time, or the greater portion thereof, he was ill tempered, quarrelsome, abusive towards your oratrix, threatening at different time to whip and beat her, and on one occasion did strike her with a broom stick, and on different occasions threatened to kill her, and at one time drew a shot gun on her and threatened to shoot her with it, putting your oratrix in fear of her life or great bodily harm at his hands. Finally, and about three months after their marriage, he abandoned your oratrix and has failed and refused ever since to live with her as her husband. The said Harvey Edwards is temporarily living in the State of Tennessee.

Your oratrix will further represent and show unto your honor, that the said defendant since their said marriage and within less than five years before this date, has been guilty of adultery with different women on various occasions in the neighborhood in which he ~~lived, he~~ and your oratrix lived, near Jonesville, Virginia. All of which acts of *crime, the abandonment* adultery have been without cause upon her part and without her consent or connivance, and she has not lived or cohabited with her said husband since she became convinced of his acts of adultery.

The object of this ~~suit~~ bill is to obtain a divorce from the bonds of matrimony existing between your oratrix and her said husband. *and restoring her to her maiden name,* To this end she makes the said Harvey Edwards the party defendant hereto and asks that he be required to answer the same, *by a guardian ad litem to be appointed for him* but not under oath that being waived; that on a hearing the relief above sought be granted, together with all *such* other further and general relief as may be suited to the case. And your oratrix will ever pray &c.

Orin & Noel, p.g.

Alice Edwards.

v3} Bill in Chy.

Harvey Edwards.

1907. Ind July Rules Bill filed.
Sp. Excts ~~Ind. 4.~~
" 1st Aug Rules ~~D. W. Camp~~
Cause set for hearing by
Plff.

Costs:

Clk \$3.84

Day 1.50

Atty. 15.00

Wit .50

Comr. 1.50

\$22.34

(Secured)

In the Circuit Court for the County of Lee,
to-wit:

THE ANSWER OF Harvey Edwards —

infant under the age of twenty-one years, by M. G. Ely,
guardian *ad litem*, assigned to defend him in this suit, to a bill of complaint exhibited against
him ~~and others~~ in the Circuit Court for the County of
Lee, by Alice Edwards ~~and others~~.

The respondent, reserving to himself the benefit of all just exceptions to the said bill, for
answer thereto, answering by said guardian *ad litem*, say that he is an infant of
tender years, and by reason of such disability is incapable of understanding, or of
taking care of his rights and interests, he therefore commend the same
to the protection of the court, and prays that no decree may be pronounced which will tend
to his prejudice.

And having answered, the respondent pray to be hence dismissed with his
reasonable costs, in this behalf expended; and he will ever pray, &c.

M. G. Ely, Guardian *ad litem*.

p. d.

County
OF
Lee } ss.

This day, M. G. Ely —, whose name is signed to
the foregoing answer, personally appeared before me, J. W. Orr, Commissioner,
and made oath that the statements made therein, so far as they depend upon his own knowl-
edge, are true, and so far as they depend upon knowledge derived from others he believes them
to be true.

Given under my hand, this 16th day of Sept. 1907.

James W. Orr, Commissioner
in chancery, Lee Circuit

Harvey Edwards

adv. }

ANSWER
OF
INFANT DEFENDANT.

Alice Edwards -

Filed Sept. 16. 1904.

H. C. D. Ewing,
Clerk.

^L
Alice Edwards, *by* *vs.*

Plaintiff.

vs.

In Chancery

Harvey Edwards/

Defendant.

This cause came on to be heard upon the bill of the plaintiff, the process duly executed on the defendant and the cause regularly matured at ruled and set for hearing by the plaintiff and the depositions of witnesses, *and the answer of defendant by his guardian ad litem,* and was argued by counsel for the plaintiff.

On consideration thereof it is adjudged ordered and decreed that the bonds of matrimony existing between the plaintiff and defendant be and the same are hereby dissolved and the said parties divorced from each other, *and the plaintiff is restored to her maiden name Alice Edwards,* and that the plaintiff recovered against the defendant the costs of this suit in this behalf expended. And the cause is stricken from the docket.

Allie Edwards.
os { Deere 101
3
Harvey Edwards.

Entered in C.C.P.
8, page 316-

Enter this decree.
Haw. Sum
Sept 15 1907

The depositions of Mollie Bledsoe and others taken before me, Geo.P.Cridlin, a commissioner in chancery for the circuit court of Lee County, Virginia, on the 31st day of August, 1907, at the law office of James W.Orr in the town of Jonesville, Va., which depositions are intended to be read as evidence in behalf of the plaintiff in a certain suit in chancery now depending in the circuit court of Lee County, Va. in which Alice Edwards Vs. Harvey Edwards.

Present: James W.Orr counsel for plaintiff.

Mollie Bledsoe, a witness of lawful age being duly sworn deposes as follows:

Q.1.-- Please state your age, and what relation you are to the plaintiff?

A.-- I am 36 years old, and am a sister to the plaintiff.

Q.2.-- When was your sister married to Harvey Edwards, and how long did they live together?

A.-- They were married the 14th of May, 1906. they lived together about three months when he left her.

Q.3.-- What was the age of your sister and Harvey when they married.

A.-- She was about 16 years old and I suppose he was about 18 or 19.

Q.4.-- State whether or not the defendant treated his said wife kindly or otherwise.

A.-- He was awfully mean to her. Her cursed her and abused her and threatened to slap her, to knock her down &c.

Q.5.-- What was the demeanor of your sister towards her husband?

A.-- She was as kind as she could be, I never heard her give him a cross word.

Q.6.-- Where is the defendant now, if you know.

A.-- I understand he is in Blount Co. Tenn. He has been down there ever since they turned him out of jail here.

Q.7.--Where does the plaintiff live.

A.-- She has lived in the county ever since her marriage, and did some time before her marriage.

And further this deponent saith not.

Mollie X Bledsoe

Millard Bledsoe, another witness of lawful age being duly sworn deposes as follows:

Q.1.-- Please state your age and your relationship to the plaintiff.

A.-- I am 20 years old and am a brother to Alice Edwards.

Q.2.-- State what the conduct of the plaintiff was towards the defendant while they lived together as husband and wife.

A.-- He was awful mean to her. have heard him threaten to whip her, and have often heard him curse her and abuse her with his tongue, and one night while I was staying all night with them, after he had quarreled with her that day at dinner, he told her that night that he would see her in Hell before he would live with her. Ollie Hyden was there that night and he seemed to be acting rather intimate with her.

Q. 3.-- What kind of reputayion has Ollie Hyden for virtue and chastity?

A.-- It is bad as I have always heard.

Q.4.-- Is it or not a fact that the defendant was convicted of petit larceny and worked for some time on the chain gang here at Jonesville?

A.-- My understanding was that he was convicted of stealing some steal traps and I saw him working for some time in the chain gang.

And further this deponent saith not/

Millard ^{his} X Bledsoe
mrb

Wesley I. Burchett, another witness of lawful age being duly sworn deposes as follows:

Q.1.-- State your age and residence.

A.-- I am 14 years old, and live near Jonesville on River ridge.

Q.2.-- State anything you may have heard the defendant say in regard to living with the plaintiff.

A.-- Some time last Fall, at our house I heard him say that he was not aiming to live with him and she had just as well let him alone.

Q.3.-- State whether or not, at any time after the marriage of the plaintiff and defendant, you ever saw the defendant in company with other women, and if so under what circumstances?

A.-- I cannot say that I did, but last Fall, I saw the defendant pass our house going in the diredtion of Mr. John Blakemere's, and in about half an hour Amy Rutherford passed our house and went on in the same direction that he went.

And further this deponent saith not.

Wit: one day \$0.50
Paid by plff.

his
Wesley L. Burchett
mark

Adam Smith, another witness of lawful age being duly sworn, deposes as follows:

Q.1.-- Please state your age, and residence and are you acquainted to the parties to this suit.

A.-- I am 23 years old, live 3 miles south of Jonesville. Am acquainted with the parties to this suit, have known them about 6 years.

Q.2.-- State whether or not you ever saw the defendant in company with another woman under suspicious circumstances, and if so who it was and when and what you saw.

A.-- On one occasion last Fall I saw the defendant and Amy Rutherford, in the woods not far from Doc Burchetts on River ridge, standing close together. I passed by near them and left them standing there

Q.3.-- What is Amy's reputation for virtue and chastity?

A.-- Her reputation in that regard is bad.

Q.4.-- Did you ever hear the defendant say anything about Amy Rutherford, or about going to see her, or anything of that kind?

A.-- I heard him, just a short time before I saw them in the woods say that he had a quarter for her.

And further this deponent saith not.

Adam Smith

Virginia, Lee County: To-wit:

I, Geo. P. Cridlin, a commissioner in chancery for the Circuit Court of Lee County, Virginia, do certify that the foregoing depositions of Mollie Bledsoe, Millard Bledsoe, Wesley I. Burchett and Adam Smith, were taken, sworn to and subscribed at the time place and for the purpose in the caption mentioned.

Given under my hand this the 31st day of August, 1907.

Geo. P. Cridlin
Commissioner in Chancery.

I as executor ad litem for the defendant agree that
 the within deposits may be paid and considered
 as though taken in my presence. Sept 11th 1907

M. S. Ely — G. D. Z.

Alie Edwards

vs. { J. Ely.

Henry Edwards

Depositions of

Mathie Blackare — out

William Blackare —

Walter J. Burckett .50

Cedric Smith —

Filed Sept. 11, 1907.

J. L. O. Ewing, Clerk

Court fee 1.50

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

again
WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

Harvey Edwards

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at rules to be held for the said court, on
the *3rd* Monday in *July*, 190*7*, to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against *him*
by Allie Edwards,

And have then there this writ. Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said Court, at the court-house, the *14th*
day of *June*, 190*7*, and 1 *31st* year of the Commonwealth.

A Copy, Teste:

H. C. T. Ewing, Clerk

, Clerk

Alice Edwards

VS

SUBPOENA
IN
CHANCERY

Harvey Edwards,

O. & N.

p. q.

To

2nd July

Rules

Circuit

Court

1907.
I accept legal service of
the within writ.
June 17th 1907.

Harvey Edwards

Mr. Harvey Edwards,

You will please take notice that on the 31 st day of August, 1907, at the law office of James W. Orr in Jonesville, Virginia, between the hours of 8 oclock a.m. and 6 o clock p.m. I will proceed to take the depositions of Mollie Bledsoe and others which depositions when taken are intended to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain suit in chancery , pending in the circuit court of Lee County, Virginia, in which I am plaintiff and you are defendant, and if from any cause the taking of the said depositions be not commenced on that day, or if commenced be not completed on that day, the taking of the same will be adjourned from time to time and from place to place until completed.

August 14th 1907.

Alice Edwards, by &c,
By Counsel.

Alice Edwards.

Notice

Erney Edwards.

Aug 21st 1907.

I accept Legal Service
of the within Notice.

Aug 16th 1907.

Harold Edwards.

22.36

4.00

1.50

5.50

1.50

4.00

1.50

2.50

8.00

8.30

8.30

Breaks 6.00

1 " 1.50

4 " 6.00

Lax 1.50

Cash 2.50

" 1.30

17.88

Bal due 4.56

22.36

Bal due 4.56

Staracet

Oct 8th 1907.